



# Traffic Advisory

RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

November 20, 2013

## **UPDATE: I-264 EAST DES MOINES AVE. OFF-RAMP SCHEDULED TO CLOSE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

*Long-term lane closures begin on I-264 East tonight*

**PORTSMOUTH –** [The Elizabeth River Tunnels](#) (ERT) Project team, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will permanently close the Interstate 264 (I-264) East Des Moines Ave. off-ramp on Thursday evening, Nov. 21 to begin construction activities on the Martin Luther King (MLK) Extension. Work coinciding with this closure includes re-striping of lanes and concrete barrier installation for long-term single lane closures on I-264 East.

Beginning at 7 p.m. tonight, Nov. 20, the right lane and right shoulder will close on I-264 East from just east of Portsmouth Blvd. to just east of Des Moines Ave. The left and center lanes of I-264 East will narrow in this area to accommodate ongoing construction activities.

Motorists should expect a traffic pattern change for the Portsmouth Blvd. and Frederick Blvd. on-ramps to I-264 East through next Tuesday, Nov. 26. Traffic at these on-ramps will be directed to STOP before entering the interstate between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. During daytime hours and following the Thanksgiving holiday, on-ramp traffic will be directed to YIELD before entering the interstate. This traffic configuration will remain in place for up to 18 months.

Beginning 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, motorists currently using the I-264 East Des Moines Ave. off-ramp will be permanently rerouted to the I-264 East Effingham St. off-ramp. This permanent ramp closure was studied and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and identified as necessary to make the new MLK Extension connector ramps function safely and efficiently. It was initially shared with the public during the May 2011 design public hearings held by VDOT.

Completion of the MLK Extension will create an efficient, connected transportation network, providing direct access between the Downtown and Midtown tunnels. Additionally, new changeable message signs on the MLK Extension will improve communication of traffic conditions to motorists.

A schedule of the closures and alternate routes can be found on [DriveERT.com](#). Current lane closure information is available on [VDOT's weekly lane closure forecast](#). Due to the nature of construction, dates are subject to change.

Visit [www.va511.org](#), call 511 or listen to Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) 1680 AM or call the VDOT Traffic Information Line at 757-361-3016 for current traffic and travel information.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, Virginia, Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC, is the private partner of the Virginia Department of Transportation for the design, construction, finance, operations and maintenance of the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project. For more information on the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project, visit [www.DriveERT.com](#). Follow us on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/DriveERT](#).

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